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A Wedding in Paradise

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O brother: we all want to betroth that bride; why then do we waste her by a temporary pleasure or the amusement of this worldly life?

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All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of mankind, jinn and all that exists, and peace and blessings of Allah be upon the Messenger of Allah, our Prophet Muhammad, and upon all his family and companions.

Talking about the eternal bliss and the solid faith in the noble status near the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful, are the solace of grief, the modesty of the hearts, the inciter of the souls to draw near their Lord and Maulâ (Patron, Lord,



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Protector and Supporter).

Talking about the bliss and pleasure of Allah does not bore or weary the friends and companions. What a noble house is Paradise; what a glorious goal it is. It has gardens where the souls attain what they wish for; pleasant palaces built for Al-Abrâr (the pious and righteous); gardens built by the Hands of the Most Merciful and filled by His Pleasure and Mercy. The small place equal to an area occupied by a whip in Paradise is better than the whole world and whatever is in it.

Dear brother:

In all his conditions, the Muslim does not think but about Paradise. He prays in order to attain the pleasure of Allah and enter it. He exerts every good for it. The young and the old, men and women, the obedient and the disobedient, they all wish that their final abode is Paradise. Some people have put it before their eyes to remember in their joys and sorrows, in their occupancy and leisure, in their travel and stay; because they have read in the Book of their Lord {And it will be cried out to them: "This is the Paradise which you have inherited for what you used to do."} [Surat Al-A'râf 7:43]

{...وَنُودُوا أَن تِلْكَمُ الْجَنَّةُ أُورِثْتُمُوهَا بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ} الأعراف: 43

Transliteration: wanoodoo an tilkumu aljannatu oorithtumooha bima kuntum

On the Day of Judgment, the Day of distress and regret, the whole world takes a heavy stand, what a heavy stand! It is a stand bearing fear and hope, light and darkness, pain and hope. It is a stand that cries one invocation: O Allah...let it pass peacefully... O Allah... let it pass peacefully... After the judgment, the names of the winners and the losers are announced {...And whoever is removed away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise, he indeed is successful. The life of this world is only the enjoyment of deception (a deceiving thing).} [Surat Âl-Imrân 3:185]

{...فَمَنْ زُحِرَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعُ الْغُرُورِ} آل عمران: 185

Transliteration: faman zuhziha AAani alInnari waodkhila aljannata faqad faza wamaalhayatu alddunya illa mataAAu alghuroori

Imagine, O you believers, that believer who has been in fear and panic, and he is ordered to enter Paradise and live eternally in it. He rejoices over the escape from the flames of Hellfire and its blazing heat. Then, here is our friend setting foot in the land of Paradise and wanders and strolls in its gardens with the loving and the longing. He looks, for the first time, at those pearly tents which

are set up on the banks of rivers in a green land, joyful climate, and a smell better than musk and saffron. Then he looks closely and sees a palace with twinkling lights, around which there are fruits whose supply is not cut off (by change of season), nor are they out of reach. Imagine O brothers, the feeling of that believer in those moments, and he knows that he will, for eternity, abide in this bliss.

My Muslim brother

With that feeling of the believer, there is still something waiting for him to make him extremely happy and joyful. There are people in Paradise whom Allah has created for this believer and people like him. They are in the best adornment possible to be wed to her husband. Allah has said about them: {Wherein both will be those (maidens) restraining their glances upon their husbands, whom no man or jinn yatmithhunna (has opened their hymens with sexual intercourse) before them.} [Surat Ar-Rahmân 55:56]

{فِيهِنَّ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ لَمْ يَطْمِثْهُنَّ إِنْسٌ قَبْلَهُمْ وَلَا جَانٌّ} الرحمن: 56

Transliteration: Feehinna qasiratu alṭṭarfi lam yatmithhunna insun qablahum walajannun

And He said about them: {(In beauty) they are like rubies and coral} [Surat Ar-

{كَأَنَّهُنَّ الْيَاقُوتُ وَالْمَرْجَانُ} الرحمن: 58

Transliteration: Kaannahunna alyaqootu waalmarjanu

Their Lord has described them by saying: {Like unto preserved pearls} [Surat Al-Wâqî'ah 56:23]

{كَأَمْثَالِ اللُّؤْلُؤِ الْمَكْنُونِ} الواقعة: 23

Transliteration: Kaamthali allului almaknooni

He has described their status and form by saying: {Verily, We have created them (maidens) of special creation. (35) And made them virgins. (36) Loving (their husbands only), equal in age.} [Surat Al-Wâqî'ah 56:35-37]

{إِنَّا أَنشَأْنَاهُنَّ إِنِشَاءً (٣٥) فَجَعَلْنَاهُنَّ أَبْكَارًا (٣٦) غُرُبًا أَتْرَابًا} الواقعة: 35-37

Transliteration: Inna anshanahunna inshaan (35) FajaAAalnahunna
abkaran (36) AAuruban atraban

Their faces have combined both external and internal beauty. They are chaste females (wives), guarded in pavilions and restraining their glances, desiring none except their husbands. Their youth never wears out and their beauty never fades away. If one of them is to come out to this worldly life, she will fill the space between the heaven and the earth with odor, perfume and sweet fragrance. She would blur the light of the sun as the sun blurs the light of the stars. They are always satisfied and never indignant.

They are always delicate never coarse, immortal never die. They are beautiful, charming, virgins as if they were sapphire. Their talks are melodious, their figure upright and their hair ebony black. They are of great status, of brilliant beauty and of showing dalliance.

Charming black eyes

Sweet talking

Wonderful creation

Beautiful manners

She is always loving and never bored. O brothers, her beauty is unimaginable, her fragrance, cloth and the beauty of her words have never occurred in the heart of a human being. Then, and only then you know that in Paradise there are what an eye has never seen nor a heart has ever perceived. In these heavenly moments, while the believer is strolling and wandering around the gardens,

tents and rivers of Paradise, he takes a glance to that lighted palace and its green surrounding and he is told to come and enter: this is your palace and your wife is inside waiting for you since you were still in the worldly life. He hurries to her and she hurries back to him in the most wonderful wedding ever; their garments are of fine and thick silk and they are adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls. She comes to him and he is to her better than the world and what is in it. They hug. They are never bored from each other. They sit under the deep shade of trees and sweet-scented plants. Around them there are cups set at hand. They exchange cups of pure sealed wine, Tasnim and Salsabil (springs in Paradise) and wine delicious to those who drink. They sit on those beautiful rugs and lean on cushions set in rows where delights, favors and gifts flow around and among them. They will say: {And they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allah, Who has removed from us (all) grief. Verily, our Lord is indeed OftForgiving, Most Ready to appreciate (good deeds and to recompense).}

[Surat Fâtir 35:34]

{وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَذْهَبَ عَنَّا الْحَزْنَ ۖ إِنَّ رَبَّنَا لَغَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ} فاطر: 34

Transliteration: Waqaloo alhamdu lillahi allathee athhaba AAanna alhazana inna rabbanalaghafoorun shakoorun

It is a wedding; quiet and tranquil; overflowed by peace, security, love and safety. Their Lord sends His greetings: {(It will be said to them): Salamun

(peace be on you), a Word from the Lord (Allah), Most Merciful.} [Surat Yâsîn 36:58]

{سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِّن رَّبِّ رَحِيمٍ} يس: 58

Transliteration: Salamun qawlan min rabbin raheemin

And the angels say to them: {"Salâmun 'Alaikum (peace be upon you) for you persevered in patience! Excellent indeed is the final home!"} [Surat Ar-Ra'd 13:24].

{سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ ۖ فَنِعْمَ عُقْبَى الدَّارِ} الرعد: 24

Transliteration: Salamun AAalaykum bima sabartum faniAAama AAuqba alddari

In such an overwhelming atmosphere, while they are sitting on the cushions they see the rivers of Paradise flowing among them; rivers of water, milk, purified honey and wine delicious to those who drink. They see a lot of fruit and they eat,

and the flesh of fowls that they desire and they savor.

Their bodies are blessed with the gardens, the rivers and the fruits; and their hearts are blessed with the eternity and immortality in the Garden of the Most Merciful.

After that, their meeting becomes pleasurable by the banks of the rivers of honey. They, lovingly, exchange the most beautiful conversations and memories.

I will leave you with **ibn Al-Jawzi** to describe for you the situation. He says:

“the Hûr (fair females) with wide, lovely eyes will ask the believer while he is lying on the river of honey and she is handing him the cup and they are in bliss and joy: do you know, O beloved by Allah, when He has made me your wife? He will answer: I don’t. She will say: He looked at you on an extremely hot day; you were in severe thirst during the hot hours of noon. He vied the angels with you and said: look, O My angels, at My slave. He has left his lustrous desire, his wife, food and drink hoping to attain what is with Me. I take you witnesses that I have forgiven him. And He has forgiven you that day and made me your wife.”

O glory be to Allah. By fasting on a hot day, that believer is being blessed and his wife by the banks of the rivers of honey. He has been wed because of his fasting; the other for fearing his Lord. The brides are wed to those whose hearts are attached to the mosques. The brides are wed to those who spend in secret and in public. The brides are wed to those who avoid the greater sins and Al-Fawâhish (illegal sexual intercourse). The brides are wed to the people of the Quran who ascend high in Heavens. They are wed to those who guard their chastity (i.e. private parts, from illegal sexual acts), to those who are faithfully true to their Amanât (all the duties which Allah has ordained, honesty, moral

responsibility and trusts) and to their covenants. The brides are wed to those whose eyes are wet out of fear of their Lord, to bodies and hearts who gave themselves away to the cause of Allah, to the people of repentance and invocations. The brides are wed to the chaste, the weak and the humble. They are wed to those who leave arguing even if they are right, to those who does not lie even if joking, to those who have good manners, to those who suppress their anger and forgive those who wronged him. They are wed to those who spread peace, and pray at night when people are sleeping. O Allah is the Greatest, the people of heavens and the Hûr (fair females) are the people who believed in Allah and believed the His Messengers, {And it will be cried out to them: "This is the Paradise which you have inherited for what you used to do."} [Surat Al-A'râf 7:43]

{...وَنُودُوا أَن تِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي ارْتَمَوْهَا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ} الأعراف: 43

Transliteration: wanoodoo an tilkumu aljannatu oorithtumooha bima kuntum taAAamaloona

O you who wish to betroth the fair female
This is the time to collect the dowry to be offered
Hate those who betray her love
To win her without them and be blessed
Fast today so that tomorrow

It may be your feast while others are fasting

O brother: we all want to betroth that bride; why then do we waste her by a temporary pleasure or the amusement of this worldly life?

He is deprived; verily he is deprived he who drinks wine in this worldly life and prevents himself from drinking it with his wife in Paradise. He is deprived; verily he is deprived he who commits adultery in this worldly life and prevents himself from enjoying the fair females of heaven. He is deprived; verily he is deprived he who listens to the songs in this worldly life and prevents himself from listening to the singing of trees in heaven with his wife.

Ibn 'Umar, may Allah be pleased with him and his father, said: "by Allah, whoever takes a part of this worldly life but that it will reduce his share with Allah; even if he was honored in Allah's sight."

Ibn Al-Jawzi, may Allah have mercy on him, said in Sayd Al-Khâtir: "as high as a human ascends in this worldly life, his status descends in the Hereafter."

And above all Allah Glorified and Exalted, has said: {Whoever wishes for the quick-passing (transitory enjoyment of this world), We readily grant him what We will for whom We like. Then, afterwards, We have appointed for him Hell, he will burn therein disgraced and rejected, (far away from Allah's Mercy). (18) And whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it, with the necessary effort due for it (i.e. do righteous deeds of Allah's Obedience) while he is a believer (in the Oneness of Allah Islamic Monotheism), then such are the ones whose striving shall be appreciated, thanked and rewarded (by Allah).} [Surat Al-Isrâ' 17:18-19]

{مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعَاجِلَةَ عَجَّلْنَا لَهُ فِيهَا مَا نَشَاءُ لِمَنْ نُرِيدُ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ يَصْلَاهَا مَذْمُومًا مَذْخُورًا
(١٨) وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا} الإسراء: 18-

19

Transliteration: Man kana yureedu alAAajilata AAajjalna lahu feeha manashao
liman nureedu thumma jaAAalna lahu jahannama yaslah mathmooman
madhooran **(18)** Waman arada alakhirata wasaAAa laha saAAayaha wahuwa
muminun faolaika kana saAAayuhum mashkooran

O Muslim brother:

The charming fair females of the heavens are wed to the best husbands after the Prophets and the Siddiqûn (those followers of the Prophets who were first and foremost to believe in them, like Abu Bakr As-Siddiq), to the one who has sold himself for the cause of Allah, the one with pure blood of beautiful scent. It is the man who comes upon his Lord with his red blood and his smell is that of the musk. He is the martyr in the cause of Allah. They are the eyes who spent the nights awake guarding and fighting in the cause of Allah till they reached their utmost desire. The blood of the martyr will not dry until his eyes enjoy the charming fair females of Paradise.

O beloved:

Here is a story: in Basra (a town in Iraq) there were women worshippers. Among them was Umm Ibrahim Al-Hâshimiyyah whose righteous husband had died

leaving her with Ibrahim. She brought him up very well that the governors of Basra wished him to be a husband for their daughters. One day the enemy attacked one of the Islamic ports. So Abdul Wahid ibn Zaid Al-Basri preached people urging them to defend Islam, and Umm Ibrahim was listening to his words. Abdul Wahid began describing the beautiful Hûr (fair females) with wide, lovely eyes (as wives for the pious) by saying:

A lovely coquettish fine girl

The distraught find in her what he aspires

Allah has adorned her with a charming face

Gathered all aspects of beautiful girls

He started to describe them more elaborately that people got excited. Umm Ibrahim came to him saying: O Abu Obeid, do you know my son Ibrahim? The elite of Basra betroth him for their daughters. By Allah, I like that girl (you are describing) and I want her to be wife to my son. Repeat what you have described of her beauty. Abdul Wahid said:

The light of lights springs from the light of her face

The perfume of perfumes mixes with the scent of scents

People yearned for martyrdom in the cause of Allah. **Umm Ibrahim said:** O Abu Obeid, would you marry Ibrahim to that girl, take her dowry; ten thousand dirham and let him go out with you in this battle. I wish that Allah will bestow martyrdom upon him that he would intercede for me and his father on the Day of Judgment. **Abdul Wahid said:** if you do so, then you and your husband are certainly winners. She called for her son Ibrahim who was among the present

people and asked him: would you take this girl to be your wife by spending your life in the cause of Allah? **Ibrahim said:** by Allah mother I willingly do. She said: O Allah I take you as my witness that I wed this son of mine to that fair female from heaven by spending his life in Your cause. O accept him from me, thou who is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy. Then she left and bought her son a good horse and a weapon. The army went out for the fight chanting the words of Allah Almighty: {Verily, Allâh has purchased of the believers their lives and their properties for (the price) that theirs shall be the Paradise} [Surat At-Tawbah 9:111]

{إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَىٰ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ بِأَنَّ لَهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ...} التوبة: 111

Transliteration: Inna Allaha ishtara mina almunineena anfusahum waamwalahum bianna lahumu aljannata

When Umm Ibrahim wanted to pay farewell to her son, she gave him a shroud and hunût (embalment), and said to him: O my son, when you want to meet the enemy put on this shroud and embalm your body with this hunût. Beware that Allah would see you falling short in His cause. Then she embraced and hugged him, she kissed him and said: "I wish that Allah will not bring me and you together but only between His hands on the Day of Resurrection. The army left, and Umm Ibrahim said goodbye to her son. Abdul Wahid said: "When we faced the enemy Ibrahim has emerged in the lead, killing a lot of the enemy. Then they assembled against him and killed him. Allah has ordained victory for the Muslims. When the army returned victoriously to Basra with the loots and all, people of Basra came out to receive it including Umm Ibrahim; watching for her son. When she saw Abdul Wahid she said to him: O Abu Obeid, did Allah accept my gift so

that I can rejoice? He said: your gift has been accepted. Upon which she fell down in prostration to Allah Almighty and said: Praise be to Allah Who did not disappoint me and accepted my sacrifice from me. When it was the following day Umm Ibrahim came to Abdul Wahid ibn Zaid and said: "O Abu Obeid, while I was asleep last night I saw Ibrahim in a dream; he was in a beautiful Garden; there was a green dome above him, he was on a bed of pearls and on his head there were a crown and a wreath. He said to me: O Mother, take the glad tidings that the dowry has been accepted and the bride has been betrothed.

O the slave of Allah:

These are the fair women of paradise, these are the Gardens and this is their path. Have you seen anyone more defrauded than that who sells the high Gardens for a life similar to mixed up false dreams, who sell the fair female of Paradise for short lasting pleasures and cheap conditions? What a fool he is who sells fine houses in the Gardens of Eden for ruined, destructed wreckage.

Alas! How grieved this retarded will be when he sees the parade of the believers walking to Paradise and that he will be forbidden from entering it. He will then know the precious merchandise he has lost.

The most beautiful bride:

She is that woman who lived in this world: pure, chaste, righteous and reforming. She is that woman who sold this worldly life to gain the Hereafter. She comes upon her Lord on the day of Resurrection and she enters paradise to become the most beautiful. However, the fair females of Paradise will be her maid

servants; O let her be happy and the women like her.

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon the Messenger of Allah, our Prophet Muhammad, and upon all his family and companions.

Mohammad El Sayed

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